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PROGRESS ON THE GREAT VOLGA PROJECT

The following information summarizes the recent progress made on the Great Volga Project as reported in Soviet newspapers and periodicals

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Tsement, No 4, of 1952 reported that over one million tons of cement were used in the construction of the Volga-Don Canal and Tsimlyanskaya GES. Over 4 million tons, it continued, will be required to complete the Kuybyshev, Stalingrad, and Kakhovka GES. (1)

Pravda stated on 26 December 1952 that the Kuybyshev and Stalingrad GES will each require 300,000-350,000 tons of steel bars for reinforcing concrete placed there. (2)

Moskovskiy Komsomol of 7 January 1953 declared that the hydraulic construction planned on the Volga-Kama Basin is of such magnitude that after its completion at the end of the Sixth Five-Year Plan, full utilization of the water power of the Volga and Kama rivers will be nearly reached. (3)

According to Vestnik Akademii Nauk SSSR, No 11, 1952 the Ivankovskiy Hydraulic Center, which includes the uppermost GES in the series of hydro-electric power stations on the Volga River, was completed during the Second Five-Year Plan. In 1940, the second unit in the series, the Ugliceskaya GES, was put in operation, and the third one, Sacharukovskaya GES, was in operation at the outbreak of World War II. Construction of the fourth unit, Gor'kovskaya GES, is nearing completion. Pravda of 13 October 1952 explained that in the past, the construction of the fourth unit had been lagging behind, but that in 1951 and 1952, work progressed more rapidly. An enormous fleet of construction machinery, Pravda continued, is concentrated at the construction site. Among

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the construction personnel are 1,200 Communists and 1,300 Komsomol members. One woodworking and one machine-repairing plant are operating at full capacity, the paper said.(5)

Pravda Vostoka of 14 November 1952 reported that concreting of the dam was started a year ago and is under way on a large scale; construction of the GES is entrusted to the Gor'kovgesstroy. (Administration for Construction of the Gor'kovskaya GES).(6)

Vestnik Akademii Nauk SSSR, No 11, 1952 revealed that construction of the fifth unit near Cheboksary is scheduled to start during the Fifth Five-Year Plan, while the sixth unit is now under construction near Kuybyshev; the seventh unit, if built, will be near Balakovo, and the eighth and last is the Stalingrad GES, which is now under construction. When completed, Vestnik Akademii Nauk SSSR claimed, the capacity of these stations will be several times greater than the total capacity of the 45 hydroelectric stations of the Tennessee Valley Authority in the US.(4)

Kuybyshev GES

M. Rauzen and V. Samsonov declared in their work, Propaganda Velikikh Stroyek Kommunizma, that the following basic materials will be required for the construction of the Kuybyshev Hydraulic Center: 2 million cubic meters of lumber, 2 million tons of cement, 700,000 tons of metals, and 20 turbogenerators of 100,000-kilowatt capacity each.(7)

Leninskoye Znamya of 20 June 1952 reported that building up the cofferdam around the excavation for the lower navigable lock was completed in June 1952, and that the work on the cofferdam for the upper lock started at that time.(8) The upper lock, Pravda revealed, will be located near the town of Komsomol'sk.(9) According to Leningradskaya Pravda of 31 July 1952, the first suction dredge, with a capacity of 500 cubic meters, arrived at the Kuybyshev GES construction site on 29 July 1952, after its release from the Volga-Don Canal construction site. Another one, towed by a tug, was on its way at the same time the paper said.(10)

Moskovskiy Komsomolets reported on 7 September 1952 that dredging for the lower lock by four suction dredges had been completed, and that pumping out the water from the dredged area was nearing completion; furthermore, a ramp was being formed to pull the dredges out from the excavation.(11)

One million cubic meters of earth were excavated from this area, according to Pravda of 25 December 1952.(12)

On 20 November, Leningradskaya Pravda of 21 November 1952 said, preparations were being completed to start concreting the foundation of the lock.(13)

Sovetskaya Belorussiya of 24 December 1952 reported that the installation of reinforcing steel bars started in December, and about 260 tons were in place by 24 December.(14)

Pravda of 25 December 1952 reported that about 600,000 cubic meters of concrete are to be placed to complete the lock, and 7,000 cubic meters were to be placed before 1 January 1953, according to the plan.(12) With the dredging for the foundation of the power plant structure completed, Izvestiya of 10 October 1952 stated, the suction dredges left the site through the gap in the cofferdam provided for this purpose. The gap has since been closed, and pumping out the water to dry the area inside the cofferdam was in progress at the end of September, according to the paper.(15)

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According to Izvestiya of 25 September 1952, concreting the foundation of the portion of the power plant structure which will be located on the right bank of the river started on the evening of 24 September 1952, and it was planned to place 150,000 cubic meters of concrete there before the end of 1952.(16)

According to Leningradskaya Pravda of 25 September 1952, the following two automatic concrete-mixing plants were about ready for operation by the end of September, and construction of the third one started at the same time.

1. One plant on the left bank of the Volga River, which has four mixers, each with a capacity of 2,400 liters and an output of 2,000 cubic meters of concrete each 24 hours.
2. One plant on the right bank of the river, with two sections of four mixers; each of the mixers has the same capacity as those above.
3. One plant, with two sections of four mixers each.(17)

Pravda of 25 December 1952 added that a large automatic concrete-mixing plant was just put in operation; its main objective will be to concrete the lower lock. The plant mixes 185 tons of gravel, 103 tons of sand, and 48 tons of cement an hour and turns out 2,000 cubic meters of mixed concrete per 24 hours, the paper said.(12)

Turkmeneskaya Iskra of 24 December 1952 reported that, despite the fact that the Volga River was frozen, powerful electrically operated suction dredges continued to dredge for the foundation of the proposed concrete spillway and to deepen the future navigable canal area. Two dredges were busy piling up sand for use by the concrete-mixing plant, the paper stated.(18)

On 1 January 1953, I. V. Komzin, chief of construction, stated in Moskovskaya Pravda that the 1952 plan for the construction of the GES was completed on 30 December 1952. He also outlined the highlights of the plan for 1953, which include placing over one million cubic meters of concrete; putting in operation the ropeway across the river, four concrete-mixing plants, and two stone-crushing plants; and building over 130,000 square meters of housing.(19)

Stalingrad GES

According to Sovetskaya Litva of 19 November 1952, the dam of the Stalingrad GES will raise the level of the Volga River as far as Syzran'. (20) Kommunist of 22 October 1952 declared that excavating the 6.5-kilometer-long Volga-Akhtuba Canal was completed on 20 October 1952 as planned. About 12 million cubic meters of earth were excavated.(21)

Sovetskaya Belorussiya reported on 2 September 1952 that eight suction dredges were in action at the construction site (22) Kommunist of 19 October 1952 wrote that construction was under way of a double-track railroad spur, of an automobile road on top of the upper cofferdam leading from the left bank of the river to the construction site on Peschanyy Island, and of another railroad leading to Lesnoy Island over the top of the lower cofferdam (23)

Sovetskaya Litva of 24 December 1952 declared that, despite cold weather and the frozen river, the dredges were in operation dredging for the foundations of the spillway and the power plant structure, and that it was expected to complete the dredging in the near future and to move the dredges into Akhtuba channel through a gap left in the cofferdam (24)

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G.K. Sinyavskiy, deputy chief engineer of Stalingradgidrostroy, summing up the work accomplished in 1952, stated in Moskovskaya Pravda of 1 January 1953 that a high-tension power-transmission line was completed across the Volga River. The excavation and building up of the cofferdam for the power plant structure was in progress on Peschanay Island, he continued, and an automatic concrete-mixing plant was being assembled on Zelenyy Island. Sinyavskiy stated that a central machinery-repairing plant was recently put in operation and that one of its shops was already producing vibrators for driving sheet piles into the ground, a machinery plant, woodworking plant, asphalt-concrete-mixing plant and others were already in operation, and the ropeway across the Volga was under construction. He stated that the cofferdam around the excavation for the power plant structure will be completed before spring floods so that the excavated area can be pumped dry to start concreting. Excavation of the spillway and building up the earthen portion of the dam adjoining the left bank of the river will also be started in 1953, he pointed out. (19)

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2. Moscow, Pravda, 26 Dec 52
3. Moskovskiy Komsomolets, 3 Jan 53
4. Moscow, Vestnik Akademii Nauk SSSR, No 11, Nov 52
5. Pravda, 13 Oct 52
6. Tashkent, Pravda Vostoka, 14 Nov 52
7. M. Rauzen and V. Samsonov, Propaganda Velikikh Stroyek Kommunizma v Klube (Propaganda on the Great Constructions of Communism in Clubs), Moscow, 1952
8. Petrozavodsk, Leninskoye Znamya, 20 Jun 52
9. Pravda, 8 Jul 52
10. Leningradskaya Pravda, 31 Jul 52
11. Moskovskiy Komsomolets, 7 Sep 52
12. Pravda, 25 Dec 52
13. Leningradskaya Pravda, 21 Nov 52
14. Minsk, Sovetskaya Belorussiya, 24 Dec 52
15. Moscow, Izvestiya, 1 Oct 52
16. Ibid., 25 Sep 52
17. Leningradskaya Pravda, 25 Sep 52
18. Ashkhabad, Turkmenskaya Iskra, 24 Dec 52
19. Moskovskaya Pravda, 1 Jan 53

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20. Vil'nyus, Sovetskaya Litva, 19 Nov 52
21. Yerevan', Kommunist, 22 Oct 52
22. Sovetskaya Belorussiya, 2 Sep 52
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24. Sovetskaya Litva, 24 Dec 52

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